

Subject: 1658 Oliver Cromwell half crown--  
removing gold plating from a silver coin

Haas, Sidney  
[Numismatist  
Hollywood, CA]

1933

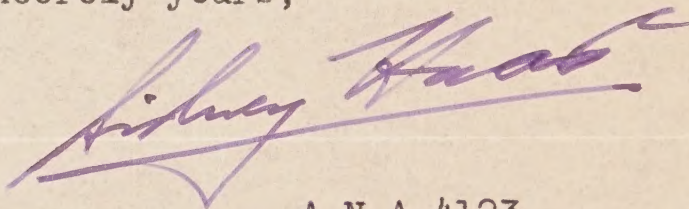
*Sidney Haas - Numismatist*  
*P. O. Box 1183, Hollywood, Calif.*  
Feb. 12, 1933

Mr. Howland Wood, Curator  
American Numismatic Society  
N. Y. C.

Dear Sir:

I have an Oliver Cromwell half crown of 1658, which has at some period of its history been gold plated, by some one whose zeal was more commendable than his judgment. I would like to find out if there is any way by which this gilt can be removed without doing the coin any material damage--electrically, chemically, or otherwise. If you can help me out I shall be immensely obliged.

Sincerely yours,



A.N.A.4123

February 18, 1933.

Mr. Sidney Haas  
Box 1183  
Hollywood, Cal.

Dear Sir:

It is a very difficult operation to remove gold plating from a silver coin. I understand that it has been done without injury to the silver but I do not know how. A little mercury mixed with talc and then rubbed on the coin will absorb the gold but it must be handled very carefully so as not to eat the silver. Then it should be washed thoroughly and a slight amount of heat applied so that any remaining mercury is evaporated; all of which must be done quickly.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

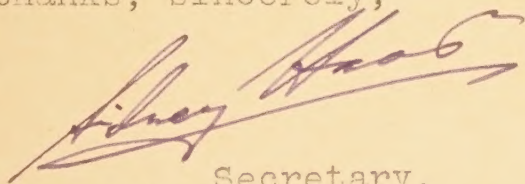
Curator

Jan. 23, 1934

Dear Mr. Wood:

A number of the members of the California Coin Club have expressed interest in the method of restoring ancient coins used by the A.N.S., but as yet none of us know anything about it. Could you let me have details of the restoring apparatus you use, and how it is operated? Some of us have been thinking that, if it is not too complicated, we may have one made

With thanks, sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Sidney H. Hoad". The signature is fluid and stylized, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Secretary,  
California Coin Club

Sidney Haas  
6421 Orange St.  
Los Angeles, Cal.



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS



Mr. Howland Wood, Curator

American Numismatic Society

New York City, N. Y.

Broadway at 156th St.

January 30, 1934.

Mr. Sidney Haas  
6421 Orange St.  
Los Angeles, Cal.

Dear Mr. Haas:

For some time we have been cleaning ancient copper coins in a 2% solution of caustic soda (sodium hydroxide). We have been using small battery jars holding from one to two quarts each. As the electric current supplied is generally alternating current and as we need very low voltage direct current, we have been using an Elkon battery charger type 310, 3 ampere size for 6 volt batteries, made by the Elkon, Inc., Indianapolis, Indiana. There are other transformers and trickle chargers on the market. With this 3 ampere outfit you could have from ten to fifteen of these battery jars. We have been wiring ours in groups of three, putting the positive wire on one side and connecting the three jars and ending up with the negative wire on the last jar. On the positive we have been using a piece of platinum wire for an anode having it an inch or so in the solution. On the negative wire we suspend the coins, either held by thin copper wire in a bunch or in a small basket made of copper wire screening. We put from one to twenty coins in each jar. It takes anywhere from a few weeks to six to nine months to do the job properly. The less current, the better. Instead of platinum you can use an iron terminal but this dirties up your solution.

For several years we have been cleaning the tarnish from silver coins in the same way but in this instance we use only one jar and consequently the current is much stronger. This does not remove the tarnish but simply loosens it so that the coins can then be easily cleaned with a wet brush.

Several private collectors East have set up a small outfit. We have several and have sometimes over thirty jars in use.

Very truly yours,

HE:JC

Curator